

Attorney Docket No. P67083US0  
Application No. 09/914,870

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-10 (cancelled).

11 (new): A method of using a nucleic acid comprising transforming a ciliate with a nucleic acid having a sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof having at least 40% homology therewith.

12 (new): The method according to claim 11 wherein the nucleic acid codes for an N-terminal fragment of a protein having the sequence MQKILLITFLLGIALAQ (residues 1 through 17 of SEQ ID-NO: 2).

13 (new): The method according to claim 11 in a method in which the nucleic acid is combined with enhancers, promoters, operators, origins, terminators, antibiotic resistances, or other nucleic acids or DNA fragments, from viroids, viruses, bacteria, archezoans, protozoans, fungi, plants, animals or humans.

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- 14 (new): The method according to claim 13 in a method in which the nucleic acid is incorporated or inserted into a vector, a plasmid, a cosmid, a chromosome or minichromosome, a transposon, an IS element, an rDNA, or any other kind of circular or linear DNA or RNA.
- 15 (new): The method according to claim 11 for homologous or heterologous expression of recombinant proteins and peptides, and for homologous or heterologous recombination ("knock-out", "gene replacement")..
- 16 (new): The method according to claim 12 for homologous or heterologous expression of recombinant proteins and peptides, or for homologous or heterologous recombination ("knock-out," "gene replacement")..
- 17 (new): The method according to claim 13 for homologous or heterologous expression of recombinant proteins and peptides, or for homologous or heterologous recombination ("knock-out," "gene replacement")..
- 18 (new): The method according to claim 14 for homologous or heterologous expression of recombinant proteins and peptides, or for homologous or heterologous recombination ("knock-out," "gene replacement").